

Application No. 10/099,827

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of tracking hits for a network file
2 comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a request for said network file from a requesting
4 device, said receiving occurring at a proxy having cache memory to service
5 said request when said cache memory includes a cached copy of said
6 network file, said proxy being configured to forward said request to an
7 originating server when said cache memory is without said cached copy;
8 sending said network file to said requesting device in response
9 to said request, said network file including an instruction to transmit an
10 indicator subsequent to said requesting device receiving said network file,
11 said instruction being embedded within said network file such that said
12 instruction is transparent to an end-user at said requesting device;
13 transmitting said indicator from said requesting device as an
14 automated response to executing said instruction as a direct consequence of
15 receiving said network file, said indicator being a count-inducing message that
16 is specific to said network file; and
17 processing said indicator at a location to which said indicator is
18 transmitted to track said hits for said network file, including counting said
19 indicator at said location for updating a tally of said hits for said network file,
20 said tally thereby being representative of both sending said network file from
21 said proxy and sending said network file from said originating server.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving said request includes
2 receiving said request over the global communications network referred to as
3 the Internet.

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1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a
2 network address of said requested network file within said indicator, so that
3 said indicator can be identified as corresponding to said requested network
4 file.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of including a
2 network address of a remote processor within said instruction for navigating
3 said indicator from said requesting device over a network to said remote
4 processor, so that said indicator can be processed.

1 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising a step of~~
2 wherein executing said instruction to transmit said indicator is executed by
3 an end-user browser at said requesting device and is transparent to said
4 end-user.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of generating
2 said request for said network file at said requesting device.

1 7. (cancelled)

1 8. (cancelled)

1 9. (cancelled)

1 10. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing
2 said instruction as programming that is compatible with JavaScript.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing
2 said network file to include at least one of text information, image information,
3 audio information and video information.

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1 12. (currently amended) A method of counting a number of accesses for
2 cachable documents comprising the steps of:
3 embedding executable code in each of a plurality of said
4 cachable documents, said executable code including an instruction triggering
5 user-transparent transmissions of count-inducing messages from client
6 devices, each said count-inducing message being specific to and indicative of
7 a particular said cachable document;
8 sending said cachable documents to said client devices in
9 response to requests for said cachable documents received from any one of a
10 plurality of said client devices, said sending being from originating servers and
11 from Web proxies;
12 receiving said count-inducing messages transmitted from said
13 client devices as immediate and direct responses to execution of said
14 executable code upon reception of said cachable documents; and
15 counting said accesses on a basis of receiving counting
16 receptions of said count-inducing messages, said counting thereby updating a
17 tally of said accesses by said plurality of client devices.

1 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein receiving said
2 count-inducing messages includes receiving one of said count-inducing
3 messages for each said cachable document received by said client devices.

1 14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising a step of
2 storing said cachable documents in said Web proxies, said Web proxies being
3 in communication with said client devices and at least one said originating
4 server via the Internet, said Web proxies being configured to store said
5 cachable documents that are downloads from said originating server.

1 15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step
2 of implementing said executable code by browser software of said client
3 devices, such that said count-inducing messages are transmitted from said
4 client devices.

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1 16. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of providing a
2 Universal Resource Locator (URL) of a processor in said executable code to
3 enable transmitting of said count-inducing messages from said browser
4 software to said processor, said processor being operationally associated with
5 said originating server.

1 17. (currently amended) A system for tracking hits over the Internet
2 comprising:
3 a proxy Web server having a store of a plurality of network files,
4 at least some of said network files being cached copies of Internet files,
5 each of said network files having a command to initiate a transmission of
6 an identifier from any of a plurality of client devices upon a receipt as an
7 automated response to reception of one of said network files by said-client
8 devices;
9 programming accessible via each said client device, said
10 programming being configured to request said network files as responses
11 to inputs from users of said client devices and to transmit said identifier
12 in a process that is transparent to said users upon reception of one of said
13 network files at said client device, said identifier being a count-inducing
14 message; and
15 a file access counter responsive to receiving said identifiers from
16 client devices as a basis for counting transfers of said network files to said
17 client devices, said file access counter being configured such that counting
18 updates reception of each said identifier is counted and used to update a tally
19 of said transfers of said network files to said plurality of client devices.

1 18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17 wherein said command
2 includes programmable code embedded within each said network file, said
3 programmable code being configured to execute said transmissions of said
4 identifiers upon said receipt of said network files by said client devices.

1 19. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said programmable code
2 includes an Internet address of said file access counter, said network files
3 including World Wide Web pages.

1 20. (cancelled)